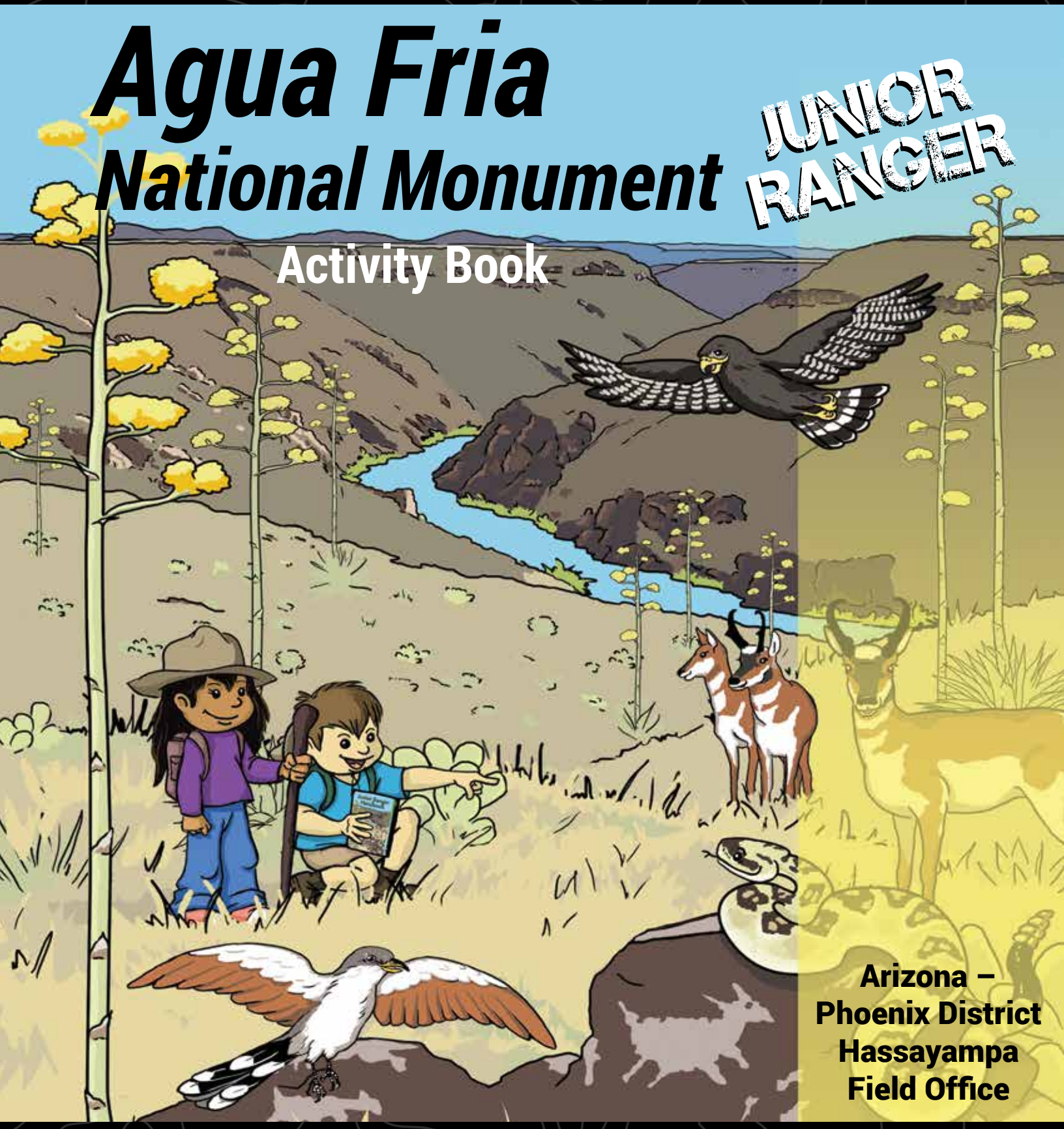
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Agua Fria National Monument

Activity Book

JUNIOR RANGER



Arizona –
Phoenix District
Hassayampa
Field Office

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Junior Ranger Pledge. . . . . back cover

Junior Rangers

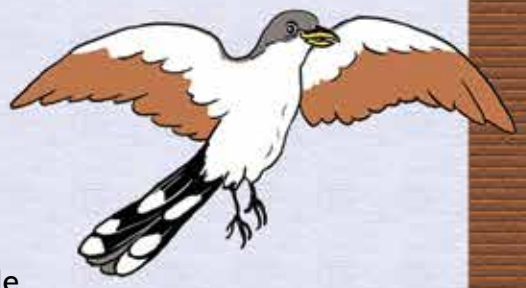
The Junior Ranger Program introduces young adventurers like you to the lands and resources managed by the BLM. We hope you enjoy the activities in this book and invite you to join the adventure!

How to earn your badge

Complete six or more of the activities in this book at Agua Fria National Monument, home, or at a local park. To receive your Junior Ranger badge and signed certificate, bring or mail your completed booklet (or a copy) to:

BLM Phoenix District Office
2020 East Bell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85022
(602) 867-5400

Public Lands Belong to You!



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a federal government agency that cares for more than 245 million acres of public lands. These lands belong to all Americans, including you. Most are in the Western United States. The BLM also manages a number of smaller sites in the Eastern United States.

The BLM manages public lands for many uses. These lands provide natural resources, such as coal, oil, and natural gas. They provide habitat for wildlife, food for grazing animals, and timber for people. The lands contain evidence of the past, such as dinosaur bones and plant fossils. Archaeological sites on public lands help us learn about people who lived in North America long ago. Today, people like you enjoy exploring the big open spaces on the lands.

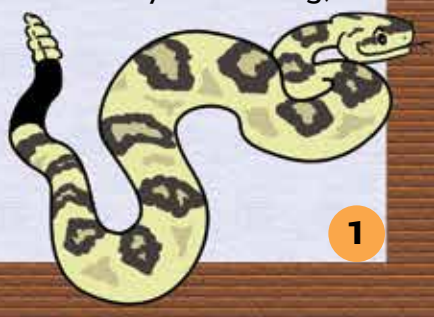
Agua Fria National Monument

Located 40 miles north of Phoenix, Arizona, Agua Fria National Monument is like a treasure trove of history and nature waiting to be explored. On January 11, 2000, the president designated Agua Fria National Monument as a special place to conserve and protect its natural (plants, animals, and water) and cultural (archaeology and history) resources for future generations. Agua Fria means "cold water" in Spanish and is over 70,900 acres (111 square miles) in size.

Agua Fria National Monument is a beautiful place filled with majestic canyons, sunbaked mesas, rolling grasslands, and flowing streams. Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife too—maybe you'll catch a glimpse of a coyote darting through the brush or a majestic zone-tailed hawk soaring overhead. The rivers, streams, and creeks provide habitats for fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and larger mammals like pronghorn, coyote, javelina, and deer.

One of the coolest things about Agua Fria National Monument is its connection to the people who were here long ago. You may see pueblos and petroglyphs throughout the monument, reminders of the native peoples who once lived here and of their tribal descendants who live across the Southwest today. The land within Agua Fria National Monument is still a special place for many tribes today.

When you visit Agua Fria National Monument, plan and dress appropriately. Pack plenty of water and food. If you find wildlife or artifacts, make sure to leave them undisturbed. Pack in and out your waste and garbage. Observe wildlife from afar. Be considerate of others visiting the monument. Whether you're hiking, camping, or simply taking in the sights, Agua Fria National Monument is a place where adventure awaits at every turn, inviting you to explore, learn, and connect with the wonders of nature.



A World of Animals

The Agua Fria National Monument is home to several species adapted to their environment.

Draw a line from the animal to the phrase that matches it.

A. When in flight, this animal looks like a vulture.

2. Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo

B. This animal uses its long tail for balance.

1. Javelina

C. Specialized scales at the end of its tail warn others of its venomous bite.

3. Pronghorn Antelope

D. Inhabits deep pools of water.

E. Uses a disc-like nose to dig up roots.

4. Blacktail Rattlesnake

6. Mountain Lion

5. Gila Chub

F. Built for speed, this animal prefers grasslands where it can easily outrun its predators.

8. Zone-tailed Hawk

G. This venomous animal spends most of its life underground where it survives off fat stored in its tail.

7. Gila Monster

H. Often calls before storms and is nicknamed "storm crow"

Answer Key
A = 8, B = 6, C = 4, D = 5, E = 1, F = 3, G = 7, H = 2.

Monument Bingo

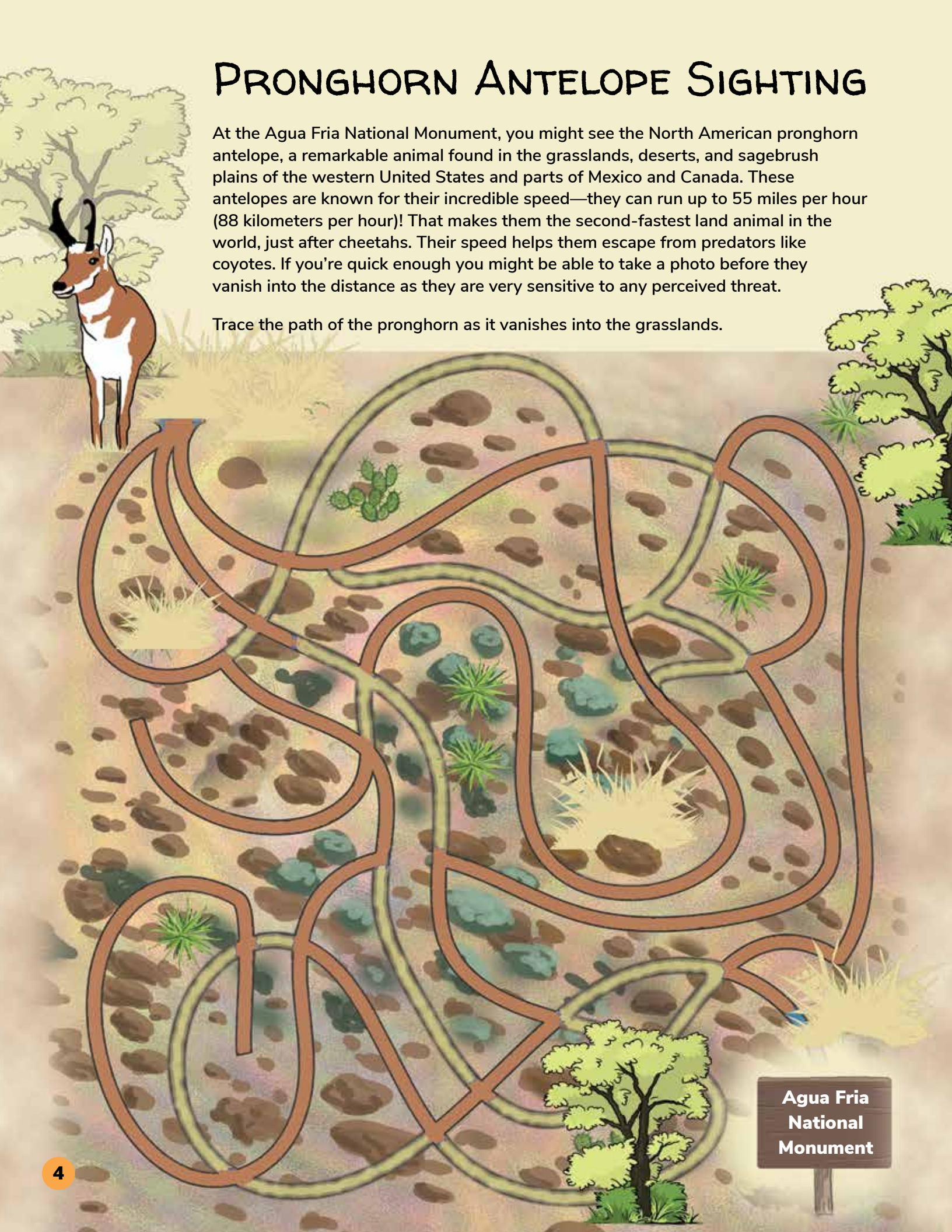
When you are driving or hiking in the Agua Fria National Monument there are a lot of things you may see, including artifacts that tell the stories of the people who once lived here. You will also see a number of plants and animals that live and thrive in this environment. You may even see other people enjoying the monument, or the park ranger! See if you can find four in a row and win a game of Agua Fria National Monument Bingo.

Agave	Hawk	BLM Information Sign	Petroglyphs
Cactus	Lizard	Road Number Sign	Agua Fria River
Pronghorn Antelope	Vulture	Home State License Plate	Park Ranger
Prehistoric Structure	Barbed Wire Fence	Quail	Roadrunner

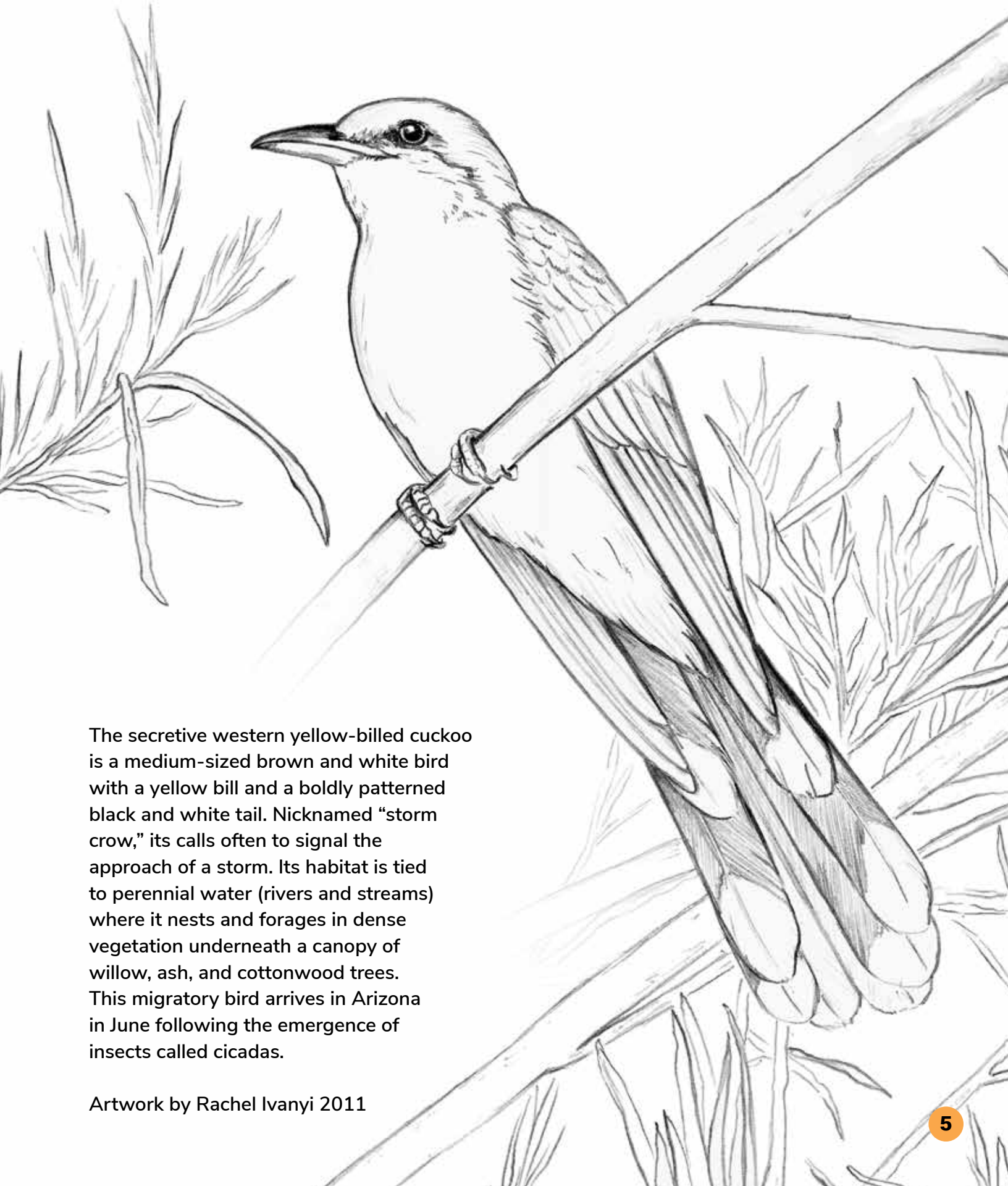
Pronghorn Antelope Sighting

At the Agua Fria National Monument, you might see the North American pronghorn antelope, a remarkable animal found in the grasslands, deserts, and sagebrush plains of the western United States and parts of Mexico and Canada. These antelopes are known for their incredible speed—they can run up to 55 miles per hour (88 kilometers per hour)! That makes them the second-fastest land animal in the world, just after cheetahs. Their speed helps them escape from predators like coyotes. If you're quick enough you might be able to take a photo before they vanish into the distance as they are very sensitive to any perceived threat.

Trace the path of the pronghorn as it vanishes into the grasslands.



Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo



The secretive western yellow-billed cuckoo is a medium-sized brown and white bird with a yellow bill and a boldly patterned black and white tail. Nicknamed “storm crow,” its calls often to signal the approach of a storm. Its habitat is tied to perennial water (rivers and streams) where it nests and forages in dense vegetation underneath a canopy of willow, ash, and cottonwood trees. This migratory bird arrives in Arizona in June following the emergence of insects called cicadas.

Artwork by Rachel Ivanyi 2011

Animal Tracks

Hey Junior Rangers! As you explore the Agua Fria National Monument you might come across mysterious tracks left by animals roaming freely in this beautiful desert landscape. You might spot the delicate prints of a coyote with its distinctive paw pads or the tiny tracks of a quail. By carefully studying the size, shape, and patterns of these tracks, you can become a nature detective, piecing together clues about the animals that call this monument home. So keep your eyes peeled and your curiosity high—you never know what secrets the Agua Fria wildlife might leave behind for you to discover.

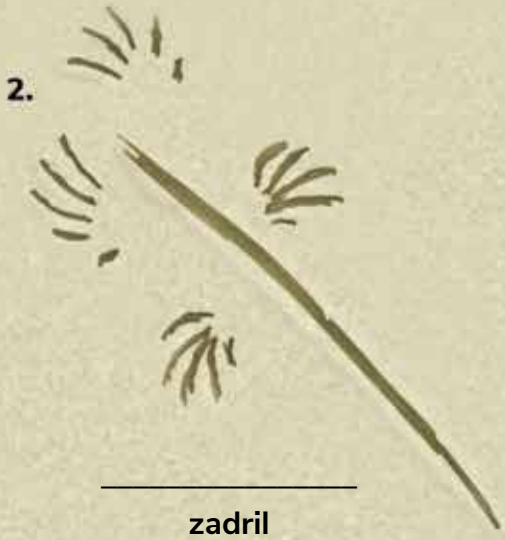
Tracking Tips

1. Walk slowly and quietly - if you are lucky you may see the animal from a distance.
2. Tracks are easier to see in the mud.
3. Many animals come out only at night so look for tracks early in the morning.

Unscramble the names of the animals that make these tracks.

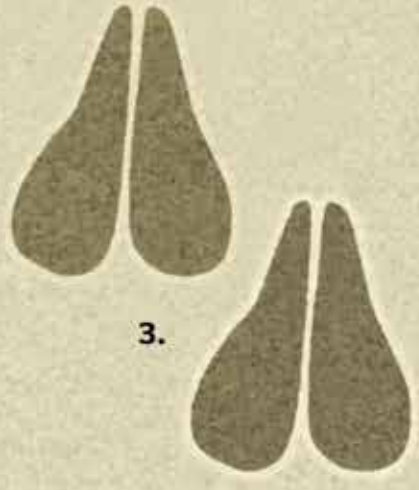
1. _____

onuaimnt
noli



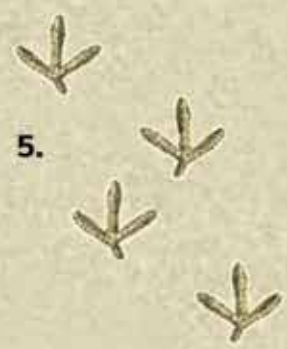
2. _____

zadril



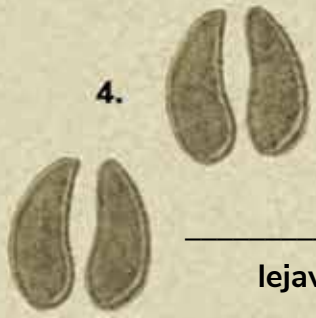
3. _____

hongorpnr



5. _____

luaiq



4. _____

lejavani

Answer Key: 1. Mountain lion, 2. Lizard, 3. Pronghorn, 4. Javelina, 5. Quail

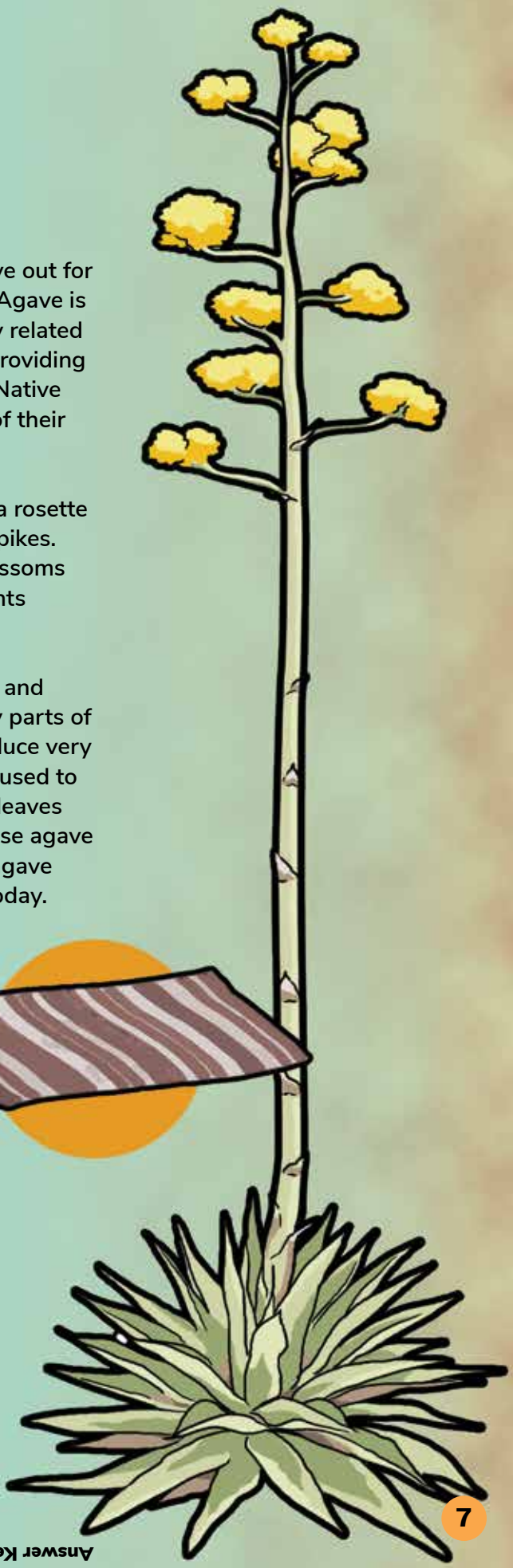
From One Plant – Many Uses

Agave

As you explore the Agua Fria National Monument, keep an eye out for agave, a plant that has thrived in the desert for generations. Agave is a succulent, not a cactus as many believe, and is more closely related to lilies. The agave plays an essential role in the ecosystem, providing food and shelter for wildlife such as bats, birds, and insects. Native American tribes consider the agave plant an important part of their food and culture.

The agave is slow to mature and is generally in the shape of a rosette of thick, fleshy leaves that are often toothed or end in large spikes. Agaves flower only once, by putting up a tall stalk, which blossoms with fragrant flowers. Then it dies, leaving smaller agave plants growing along many runners and offshoots.

The O'odham word for Agave is A'ud, which is eaten roasted and used by the O'odham people today. When roasted, the fleshy parts of the plant are edible. The leaves are boiled and beaten to produce very strong fibers that are spun into thread and woven into cloth used to make mats, rope, blankets, and sandals. The sharp tip of the leaves can even be used as a sewing needle. The Akimel O'odham use agave to make their "Kiaha," or burden baskets. When you find an agave plant, think of all the many ways you think it could be used today.



Unscramble the words:

veaga = _____

pero = _____

wegins deleen = _____

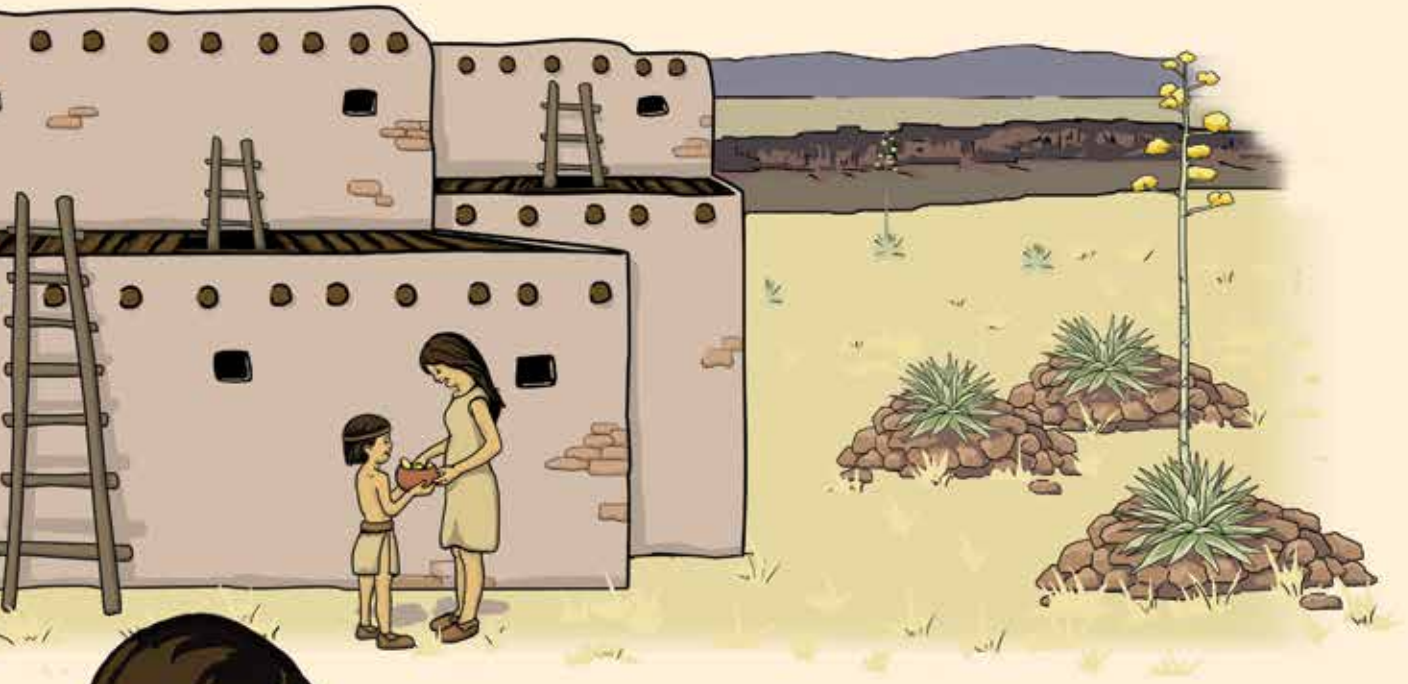
holtc = _____

Answer Key: agave, rope, sewing needle, cloth

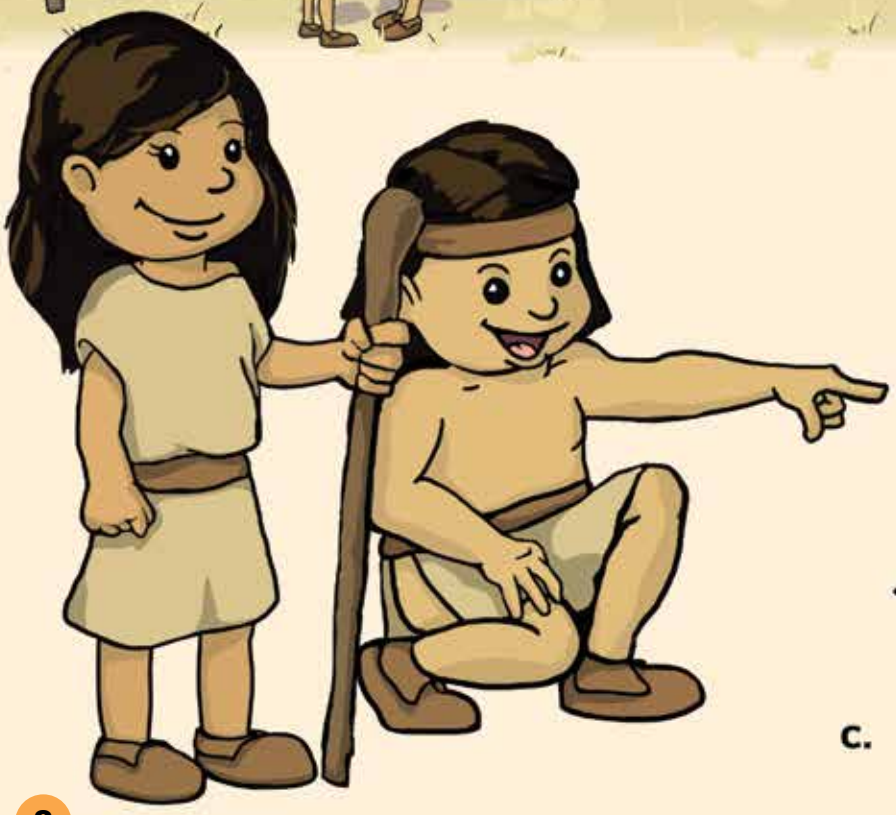
Perry Mesa Tradition

People have lived on Perry Mesa and Black Mesa for centuries. These communities expanded between 1250 and 1450 C.E. (Common Era), and this period of expansion is what archaeologists call the Perry Mesa Tradition.

The people of Perry Mesa built hundreds of multi-room pueblos. At one point it is estimated that over 3,000 people lived in the area. Each village had stone pueblos that could have had more than 100 rooms. That's more than some apartment complexes today!



Protection



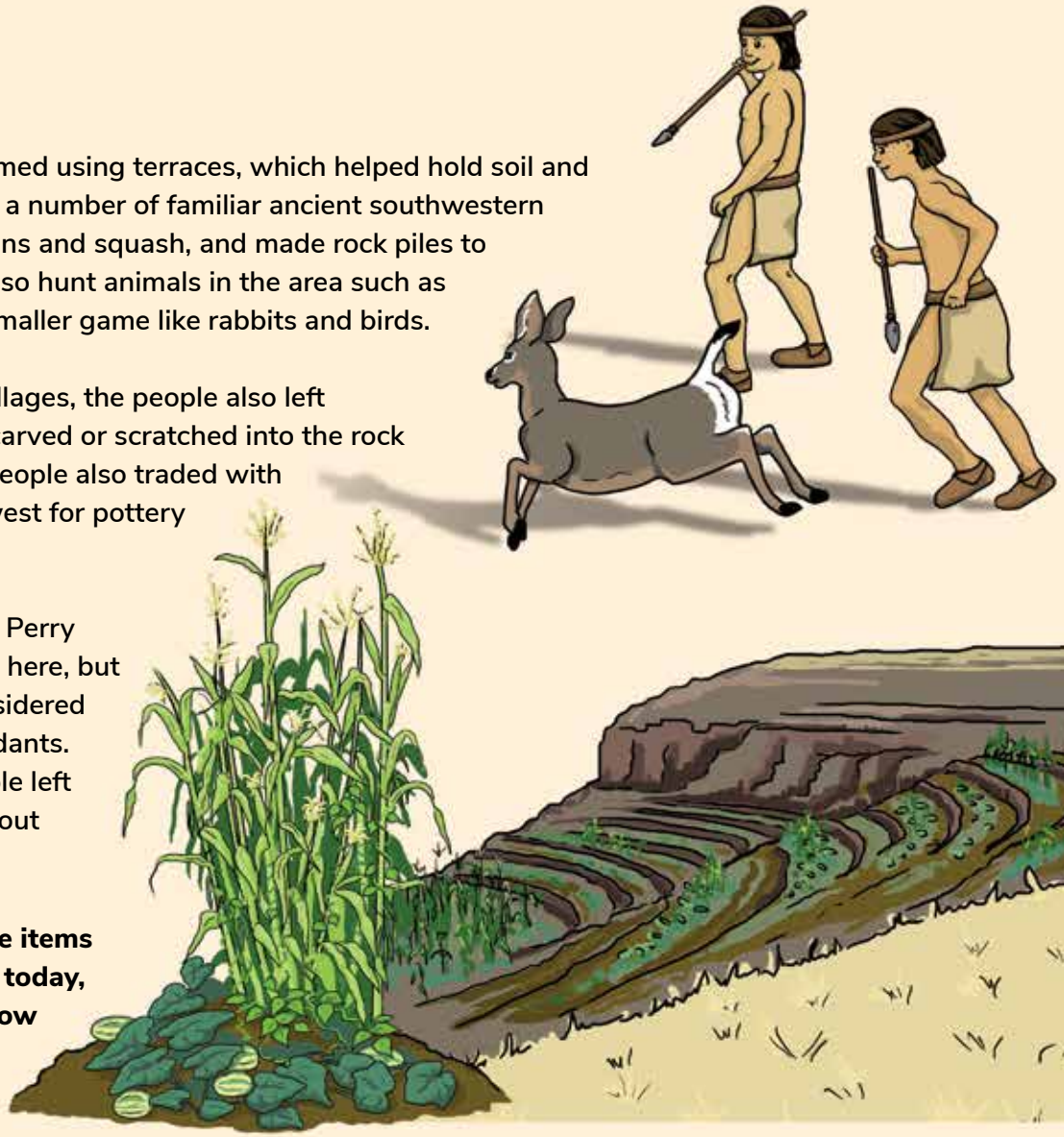
C.

D.

The Perry Mesa people farmed using terraces, which helped hold soil and capture rainfall. They grew a number of familiar ancient southwestern staples, such as maize, beans and squash, and made rock piles to grow agave. They would also hunt animals in the area such as bighorn sheep, deer, and smaller game like rabbits and birds.

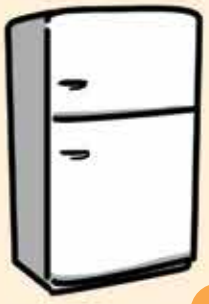
Besides the hundreds of villages, the people also left hundreds of petroglyphs (carved or scratched into the rock surface). The Perry Mesa people also traded with other groups in the southwest for pottery and other goods.

By 1500 C.E. the people of Perry Mesa were no longer living here, but a number of tribes are considered to be their modern descendants. What the Perry Mesa people left behind can tell us much about their lives.



Draw a line connecting the items used in the past and used today, to the words describing how we use them (protection, water, shelter, or food).

Water **Shelter** **Food**



Answer Key: F, C: water, H, D: food, E, G: shelter, B, A: Protection

Wildlife of the Agua Fria National Monument

Find the name of the Agua Fria National Monument animals pictured on these two pages in the word search below. The twelve words can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally or backwards.

w	t	e	t	c	l	b	j	a	q	b	u	j	p	t	n	a	l
v	m	d	k	i	j	a	m	v	i	d	p	c	h	t	o	z	e
j	x	i	z	a	v	b	u	h	c	a	l	i	g	n	i	a	o
n	u	a	t	e	n	a	w	l	j	z	t	w	q	r	l	w	p
w	r	p	l	r	z	s	p	p	p	x	c	m	j	o	n	w	a
d	t	i	f	k	e	v	e	i	l	j	z	k	p	h	i	k	r
q	n	g	k	r	r	t	z	l	l	s	x	z	w	g	a	b	d
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p	q	q	i	x	w	v	w	t	o	o	a	v	k	r	u	r	o
x	o	w	y	l	v	s	r	w	q	m	i	r	w	p	o	b	g
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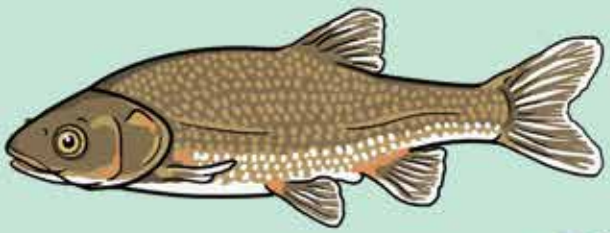
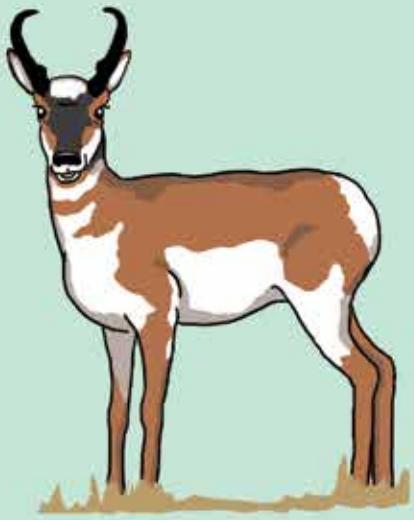
h	z	h	e	j	l	p	v	p	m	u	m	f	o	g	o	t	j
y	e	l	l	o	w	b	i	l	l	e	d	c	u	c	k	o	o
r	u	z	y	g	n	e	c	y	u	t	i	o	x	i	v	s	c
m	h	m	k	s	l	y	n	w	w	m	q	w	d	g	y	a	w

javelina



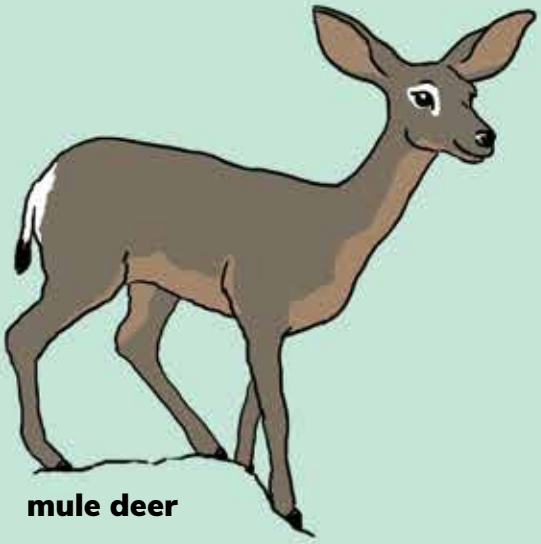
Gila chub

Gila monster

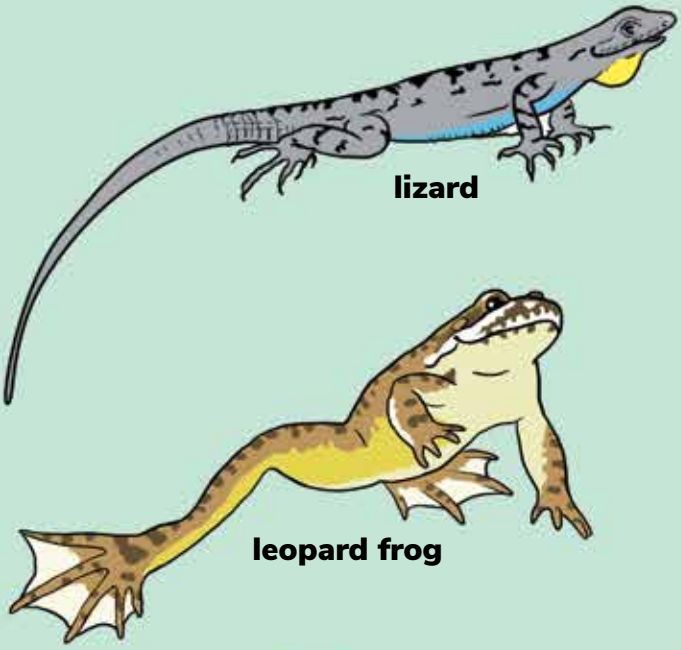


pronghorn antelope

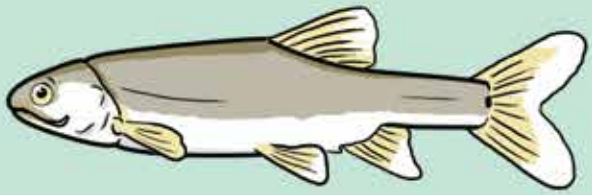
quail



mule deer



lizard

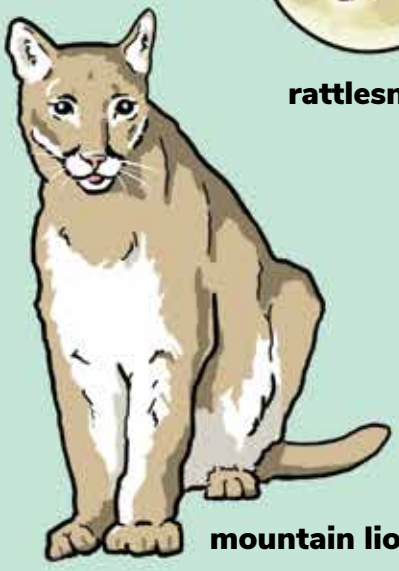


longfin dace

leopard frog

yellow-billed cuckoo

rattlesnake



mountain lion

w	t	e	t	c	l	b	j	a	q	b	u	j	p	t	n	a	l
v	m	d	k	i	j	a	m	v	i	d	p	c	h	t	o	z	e
j	x	i	z	a	v	b	u	h	c	a	l	i	g	n	i	a	o
n	u	a	t	e	n	a	w	l	j	z	t	w	q	r	l	w	p
w	r	p	l	r	z	s	p	p	p	x	c	m	j	o	n	w	a
d	t	i	f	k	e	v	e	i	l	j	z	k	p	h	i	k	r
q	n	g	k	r	r	t	z	l	l	s	x	z	w	g	a	b	d
a	u	n	g	d	l	f	s	x	t	i	x	u	y	n	t	h	f
r	a	a	u	p	b	i	s	n	a	t	t	m	q	o	n	l	r
p	q	q	i	x	w	v	w	t	o	o	a	v	k	r	u	r	o
x	o	w	y	l	v	s	r	w	q	m	i	r	w	p	o	b	g
z	p	m	q	g	v	e	y	c	o	a	a	p	l	m	m	w	a
r	r	v	r	d	e	j	b	y	l	z	k	l	m	o	r	m	k
t	e	c	a	d	n	i	f	g	n	o	l	w	i	t	o	s	w
h	z	h	e	j	l	p	v	p	m	u	m	f	o	g	o	t	j
y	e	l	l	o	w	b	i	l	l	e	d	c	u	c	k	o	o
r	u	z	y	g	n	e	c	y	u	t	i	o	x	i	v	s	c
m	h	m	k	s	l	y	n	w	w	m	q	w	d	g	y	a	w

How to Visit an Archaeological Site

Archaeological and Native American artifacts and shelters that are found within the monument can never be replaced. Once they are taken or damaged, they are gone forever. Enjoy looking at these treasures but be respectful and leave everything as you find it for others to enjoy. We are all stewards of this land so remember these simple rules when visiting archaeological sites:

1. Pick up and look at artifacts on the ground but return them to where you found them.
2. Do not touch petroglyphs. Photograph or sketch the images.
3. Do not walk on walls, add your name or graffiti, or remove ancient rock writing and images.

   The walls can fall causing permanent damage to the site, or to you!
4. Do not post the locations of the sites on the internet. This can lead to damage, theft or vandalism.
5. Read and follow instructions on informational signs.
6. Do not move or stack artifacts. Leave them where you find them.

Take only pictures and memories. Leave archaeological sites and artifacts where you find them for others to enjoy.

Pieces of the Past

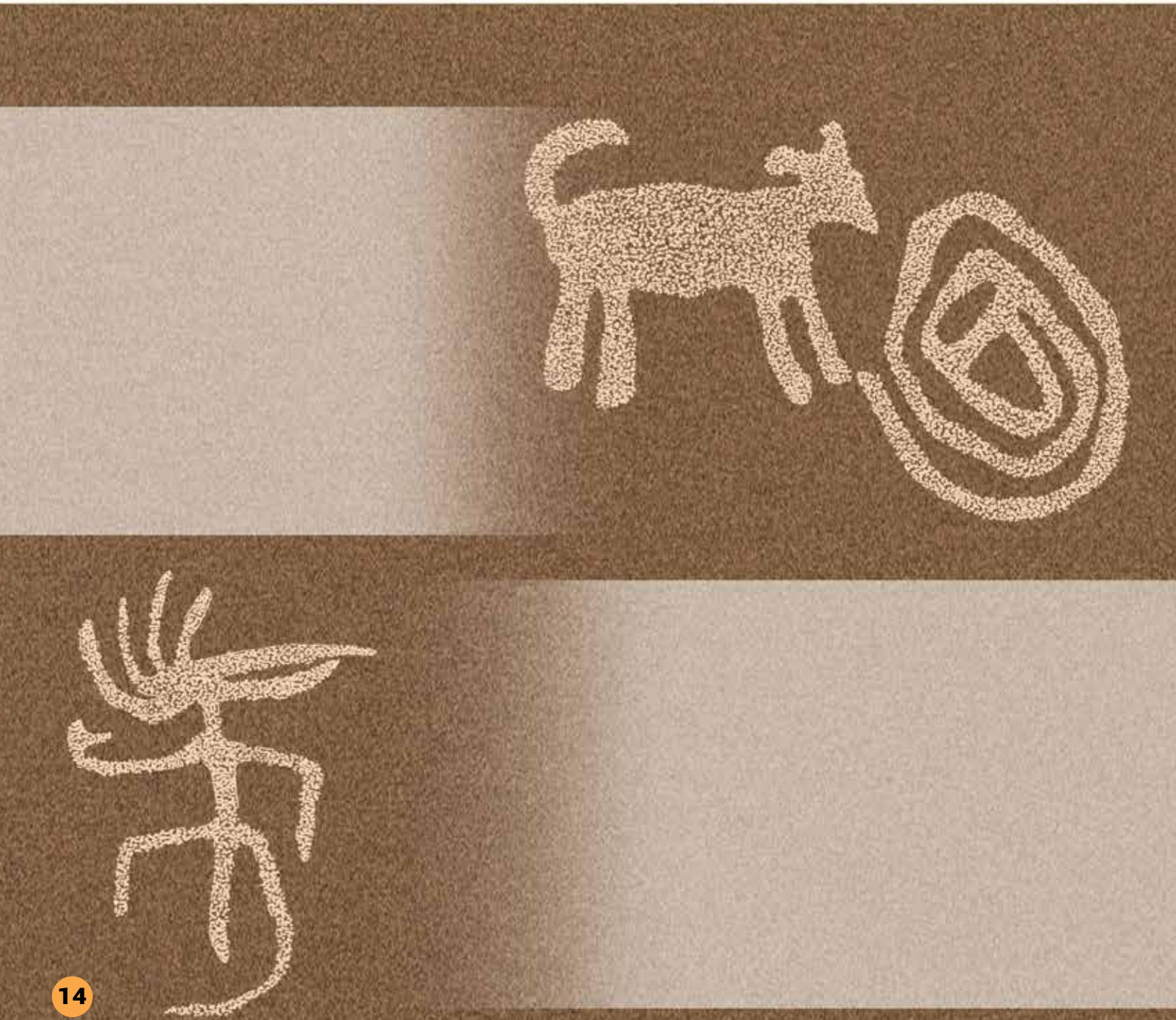
One of the ways that archaeologists learn about how ancient people lived is to study what they left behind. **Artifacts** are the remains of objects that people made and used in their lives and were either left behind when they moved away or were thrown in the trash pile, called **middens** by archaeologists. By studying what the ancient people left behind, archaeologists try to piece together the story of how people may have lived long ago.

What do you think someone from the future could learn about your family from what you throw away or would leave behind? Take a look at what your family throws away in a week and what you might leave behind if you had to move and could not take everything with you. Make a list of those things and then pretend you are finding these things in the future.

Using your list, what could you learn about your family? Write it below.

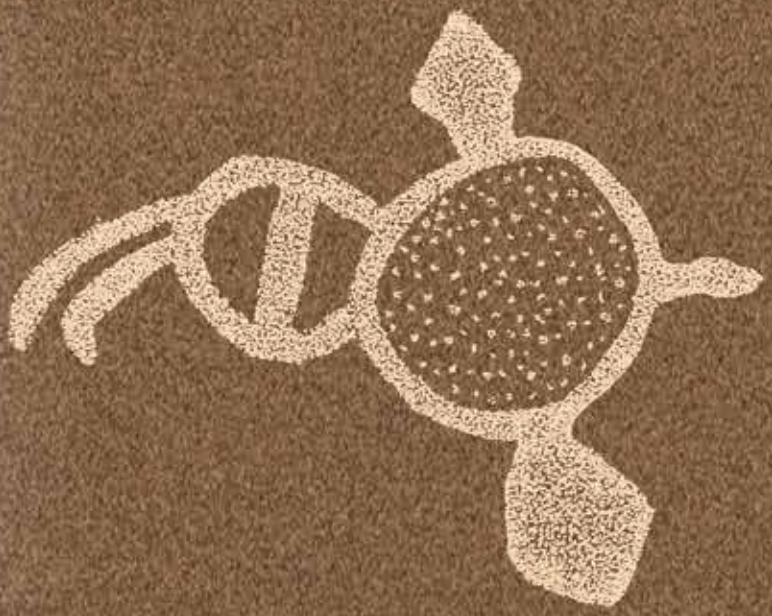
Pathway to the Past

The ancient people that lived on Perry Mesa, within what is now the Agua Fria National Monument, left images on rocks called petroglyphs. Petroglyphs were made by pecking on a stone with other stones or stone tools. Archaeologists study petroglyphs to try and understand the meaning or the reason they were made, but they don't have an exact answer. Some present day American Indian people have said they could mean anything from directions, information to an area, sacred stories connected to a place, spiritual meanings, or



hunting and gathering information. Some petroglyphs may have been used for marking time or noting a special place.

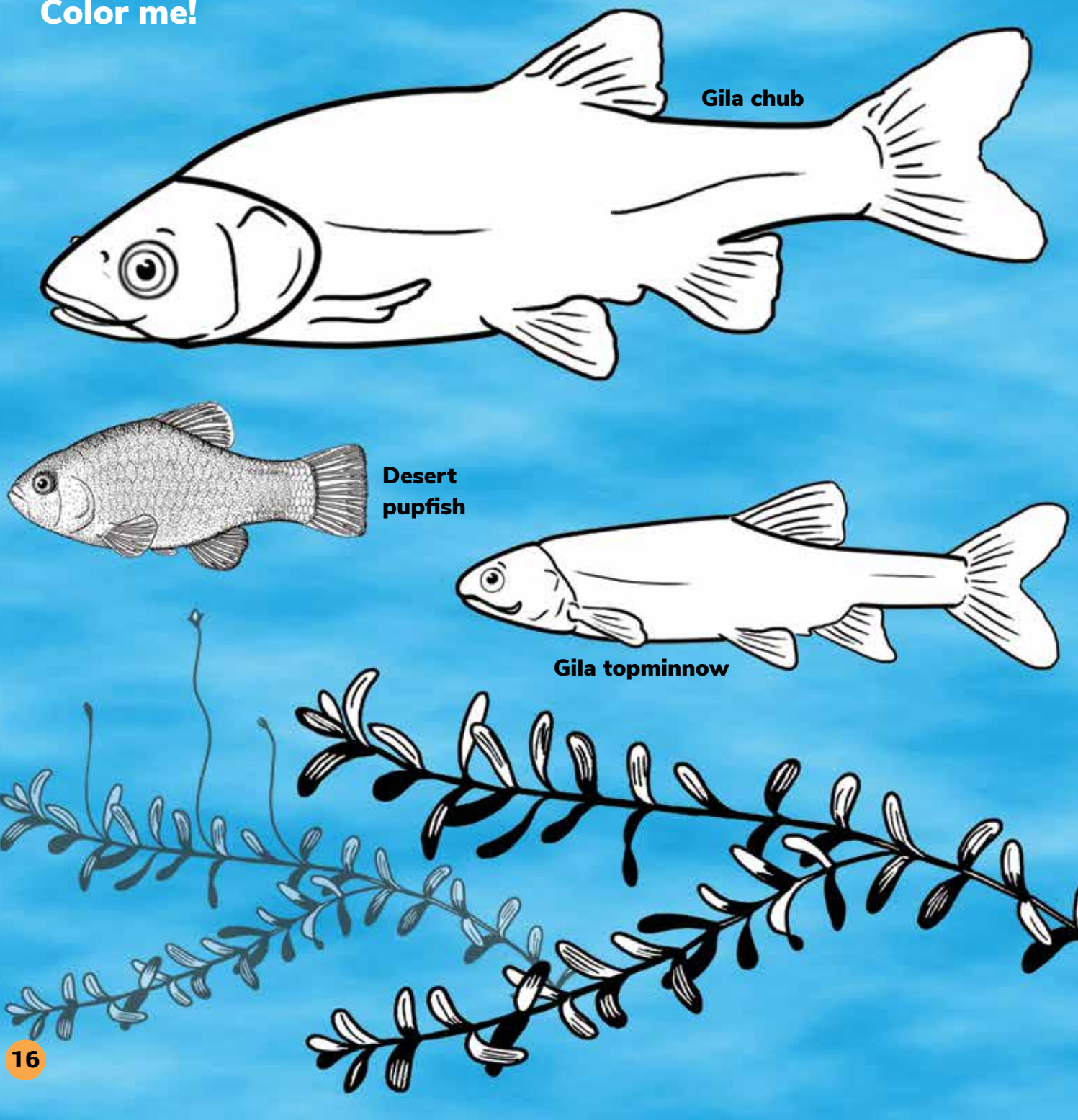
Look at these petroglyphs and write in the space next to them what you think they may have meant or what message ancient people were trying share.



Native Fish

The Agua Fria River and its tributaries are rare flowing rivers which endangered fish depend on. The **riparian** (rivers and streams) ecosystems sustained by year-round water support populations of endangered fish species like the Gila chub, Desert pupfish and Gila topminnow as well as other native fish.

Color me!



More Places to Play and Learn!

on the National Landscape Conservation System

Where will you visit next?

Illustrators:
Cover landscape, scenes, articles and animals: Rachel Ivanyi
Coloring page, Western yellow-billed cuckoo: Rachel Ivanyi
Junior Ranger images: Mark Swan

Bureau of Land Management

Junior Ranger

As a Bureau of Land Management Junior Ranger, I promise to:

- Do all I can to help preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources on our public lands.
- Be aware of how my actions can affect other living things and the evidence of our past.
- Keep learning about our important heritage.
- Share what I have learned with others.

Ranger Signature _____

Date _____